Dear Families,

For many of us, December is chaotic and filled with busy preparations for Christmas. We run breathlessly through crowded shopping centres trying to find the perfect present to please every member of the family. We bake dozens of Christmas cookies and goodies. We dust off boxes of decorations stored away in cupboards and sheds, and festively deck the house and string lights on the tree. We struggle to write last minute cards and holiday greetings to cherished friends. Each year it only seems to get more hectic.

As the shopping days decrease and our frantic pace increases, it is all too easy to lose sight of what these special preparations are meant for and to forget who it is we are getting ready to greet. Excitement fills the air and brightens our spirits as we hummed snatches of Christmas carols, but our worries are still lengthy and the ‘to do list’ is still long and these weigh heavily on our minds. The season of Advent begins in Australia when our schools are finishing the work of the school year. There is a combination of feelings at this time. There may be a sense of completion of tasks done, successes and failures, hopes and disappointments, reports to arrive, and the promise of many weeks of holidays. For many students there is also a sense of expectancy not only about the holidays but also about what the new year may bring and new opportunities ahead.

During these hectic days, we celebrate the season of Advent as a reminder of whose coming it is that we are preparing for. Advent is designed to give us spiritual orientation to the coming celebration and a time for reflection and interior preparation for it. Advent is a sort of spiritual ‘waiting room’. The word ‘advent’ comes from the Latin adventus, which means ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’. Throughout the Advent season we anticipate the coming or the arrival of Christ, the anointed one, the Messiah, our saviour. Christmas is, indeed, a celebration of a birth, but one that is startling, amazing and almost incomprehensible in its reality!

THE UNEXPECTED GIFT

It had been a long year. The students were tired and impatient for the holidays to begin.
The staff were exhausted.
As a staff member gave out the reports, a special student came to collect his.
It was a pleasure to see this boy as he had always been polite and cooperative.
‘Thank you for this year,’ he said with a smile on his face. I really had a good year.’
The teacher agreed. He then accepted his report and walked out the door.
Another student came to receive his report. The teacher bristled at the mere sight of him.
This student had been difficult, rude and impolite.
‘Thank you for this year,’ he said. I know that I haven’t been the best student but I want to thank you for all your patience and help.’
With this he accepted his report and walked out the door.
Which student’s remark was the teacher most grateful for?

In contemporary Australia, while Christmas is associated with family gatherings, gift-giving, and holidays in the sun, sand and surf, its true meaning is a celebration of that moment in time when, in the immensely attractive account of St Luke, God, in the person of Jesus Christ, was born in poverty in a stable in Bethlehem, because there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the local inn. The little baby born in Bethlehem serves to remind us of the truth that our God is a God who loves us even to the point of becoming one of us. In becoming human, God has given each of us dignity and importance, and the opportunity to transcend the worries of this world and focus on our eternal destiny.

ST JOSEPH’S CORAKI PARISH WEEKEND MASS TIMES & WOODBURN ALTAR SERVERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Person(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>All Saints’ Church, Woodburn</td>
<td>James Pursey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laura and Lily Davidson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30 am</td>
<td>St John’s Church, Evans Head</td>
<td>Jasmine and Hannah McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th/8th December</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th/15th December</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ella &amp; Alec Robinson</td>
<td>Leilani Mangan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T   6682 2468
F   6682 2494
W   www.wdbplism.catholic.edu.au
E   sjpwood@lism.catholic.edu.au
REPORTS
The Semester 2 reports will be sent home on Thursday, 12th December with your children. Please take the time to read the reports with your child, taking special note of the comments personal to your child. It would also be good to re-read the explanation of the A-E grades as required by the Commonwealth Government.
I thank the teachers for the time and effort they have once again put into preparing and presenting the children’s reports.

PORTFOLIOS
Portfolios will remain with families at the end of each year. The students will receive a new portfolio at the beginning of each year. These will be sent home at the end of first semester and then returned for final semester work samples and assessments to be placed in them and then sent home at the end of Term 4 for students to keep. We hope that this is a more efficient system of showcasing student’s work to parents.

THANK YOU MORNING TEA
LEADERSHIP THANK YOU AFTERNOON
Reminder that our thank you afternoon tea for our School Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains, SRC members, Mini Vinnies’ leaders and Parish Altar Servers is on Tuesday, 10th December from 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm. Afternoon tea will be provided.

THANK YOU LITURGY AND MORNING TEA FOR SCHOOL HELPERS
We will have a liturgy and morning tea to say thank you to the many parents, carers, grandparents and friends who assist us in so many ways around our school. Without their generosity in giving up time and energy our children would miss out in so many ways.

We invite everyone who has assisted our school community in any way throughout 2013 to come along to our liturgy at 10.45 am on Tuesday, 10th December in the library, followed by morning tea (provided).

MINI VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
Just a reminder that all classes are helping to prepare a Christmas Hamper for families in need in the Parish. If possible, could students bring along to school suitable items for their class Christmas hamper box.
Thank you in appreciation of your generosity and support.

FINAL SCHOOL/GRADUATION MASS
All families are invited to join us for our end of year Mass and Year 6 Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 20th December at 10.00 am which will be prepared by Year 6 and Miss Egan. Following Mass there will be morning tea in the school library. Please join us for this occasion.

ST JOSEPH’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
The school’s Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, 16th December. The evening will begin with a BYO picnic tea at 6.00 pm followed by a musical presentation by some of our children at 7.30 pm, then the concert at 7.45 pm. The concert will conclude with the draw for the Parent Forum Christmas Raffle and communal Christmas carols.

PARENT FORUM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Raffle tickets have been sent home for the Parent Forum Christmas Raffle.
Tickets are $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00.

1st Prize: Bar-b-que
2nd Prize: Christmas Hamper in Wheelbarrow
3rd Prize: $50.00 Coles Voucher

Please return tickets to school, sold or unsold by Thursday, 12th December.

The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Concert on Monday evening, 16th December.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT WOODBURN AND EVANS HEAD
All children who are participating in the Carols by Candlelight at Woodburn and Evans Head are asked to wear their sports uniform. Children who are singing at the Woodburn Carols will need to meet teachers at 7.00 pm. Children singing at Evans Head Carols will meet teachers at the Surf Club at 7.00 pm. We have very small numbers attending these carols at the moment. It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider your child/children becoming involved in these community events and let us know by Monday.

CORAKI PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Monday, 24th Dec Christmas Eve: 5.30 pm at Woodburn
Monday, 24th Dec Christmas Eve: 5.30 pm at Coraki
Monday, 24th Dec Christmas Eve: 7.30 pm at Evans Head
Tuesday, 25th Dec Christmas Day: 7.30 am at Evans Head

If your child will be attending any of these Masses please let us know. Fr Richard has asked that any child attending any of these masses dress as either an angel or a shepherd.
ST JOSEPH’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2013

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held at the Evans Head Aquatic Centre on Friday, 13th December 2013 starting at 10 am, regardless of weather. A teacher will be in attendance at the pool from 9.40 am for those students who arrive by private means. A full program will be sent home before the Carnival. Thank you to all parents who have offered to help at this year’s Carnival. A note will be sent home outlining your job for the day. Infants children in Kindergarten and those not participating in the Carnival from Year 1 will remain at school on the day.

Pool Entry and Travel Arrangements: The cost of entry to the Evans Head Aquatic Centre is $3.00 per child which we will collect at school by Monday, 9th December to save confusion on the day. We also need a travel note for each child attending the Carnival. The cost of the bus will be covered by the Performance Levy.

Some families have returned the travel note without the $3.00 entry fee. Please complete the note in this Newsletter and return to school by Monday, 9th December.

ST JOSEPH’S HIVING CARNIVAL 2013

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held at the Evans Head Aquatic Centre on Friday, 13th December 2013 starting at 10 am, regardless of weather. A teacher will be in attendance at the pool from 9.40 am for those students who arrive by private means. A full program will be sent home before the Carnival. Thank you to all parents who have offered to help at this year’s Carnival. A note will be sent home outlining your job for the day. Infants children in Kindergarten and those not participating in the Carnival from Year 1 will remain at school on the day.

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ST JOSEPH’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2013: Travel & Pool Entry

Please return by Monday, 9th December

My child/children___________________________________ will be
YES   NO    (please circle)

travelling by bus
to the Evans Head Pool on Friday, 13th December

OR

My child/children___________________________________ will be
YES   NO    (please circle)

travelling privately
to the Evans Head Pool on Friday, 13th December

OR

Other arrangements:__________________________________

I enclose $_______ ($3.00 per child - pool entry) MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY NOTE

Name:________________________________________________ Signature:________________________________________

COMMUNITIES SPORT AND RECREATION—SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Sport and Recreation have some fun activities planned for the January 2014 school holidays occurring at Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre, Lennox Head. Activities include:

Sailing: Tuesday, 14th January and Thursday, 16th January
Activity Days: Monday, 13th January, Wednesday, 15th January, Friday, 17th January
Surf Clinics: Thursday, 16th January, Friday, 17th January, Thursday, 23rd January, Friday, 24th January

To enrol or for further information please contact 13 13 02 or visit the website: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au and click on the What’s on, North Coast link.

TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE LISMORE

ICT Trainee

To commence in February 2013

Information is available on the College’s website at www.trinitylismore.nsw.edu.au

Applications close:
Wednesday 11 December, 2013

ST JOSEPH’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2013: Travel & Pool Entry

Please return by Monday, 9th December

My child/children___________________________________ will be
YES   NO    (please circle)

travelling by bus
to the Evans Head Pool on Friday, 13th December

OR

My child/children___________________________________ will be
YES   NO    (please circle)

travelling privately
to the Evans Head Pool on Friday, 13th December

OR

Other arrangements:__________________________________

I enclose $_______ ($3.00 per child - pool entry) MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY NOTE

Name:________________________________________________ Signature:________________________________________